Influx of Bangladeshi nationals

1132. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Fresh Bangladeshi influx alarms Government" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 28th October, 2001;

(b) if so, whether there is a fresh influx of Bangladeshi nationals into some border States recently;

(c) if so, whether the National Security Advisor who recently paid a visit to Dhaka discussed the issue with the leaders of Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There were reports of violence, particularly against the Hindu minority in Bangladesh following the General Elections in that country on 1st October, 2001. The Government's concern has been conveyed to the new Government of Bangladesh through diplomatic channels. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister who visited Dhaka as his Special Envoy on 26-27 October, 2001 also discussed this matter with the Government of Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh has reiterated its commitment to the safety and security of all communities including minorities and has stated categorically that firm action would be taken to protect the minorities and to punish the perpetrators of violence against them. That Government has also set up a special committee headed by Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to enquire into these attacks.

According to information received from the State Governments, there is no major influx of Bangladeshi nationals in any of the States bordering Bangladesh in the recent past.